

Appl. No. 09/871,608
Amdt. Dated September 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner continuous cavity adapted to receive a plurality of strands, said cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with a strand sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strand sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements ~~on~~ on their adjoining surfaces.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

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Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a ~~maximum~~ pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the ~~stands~~ strands are to be coiled.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a ~~maximum~~ pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.